

CLAIMS:

1. A method of selecting data for use in decoding an embedded watermark in compressed multimedia data, comprising the steps of:
 - calculating a quality metric for a given part of the compressed multimedia data, based on the degree of compression of the multimedia data;
 - 5 • including in a watermark decoding process, the given part, if its quality metric is higher than a certain threshold, and;
 - excluding from the watermark decoding process, the given part, if its quality metric is lower than the threshold.
- 10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the method additionally includes the step of using the same quality metric to select data to use in a scale-detection process performed before the watermark decoding process.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the basis of an analysis of a compressed data stream.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the basis of one of the following parameters associated with the compressed data stream: Quantisation factors; the number of Variable Length Codewords (VLCs) used to code a data
20 frame; Motion Vectors.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the basis of a plurality of parameters associated with the compressed data stream.
- 25 6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the basis of an analysis of base-band data.
7. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the basis of a measure of the energy of a frame.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the quality metric is calculated on the basis of a plurality of parameters associated with the base-band data.
- 5 9. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the given part of the data is a frame.
10. Apparatus arranged to perform the method of any one of the preceding claims.